

4 POPULAR CULTURE IN KARNATAKA

where It arose. There Is also a tradition that the earliest musician to set the tunes to notation and popularise them was PurandaradaSa—a Vaishnavite saint of the Karnataka who composed innumerable devotional songs in Kannada. A distinctive style In architecture and sculpture which has been called the Chalukya or Hoysala School was also developed in the Karnataka in the course of the centuries. Numerous temples built In this style are found scattered over the Mysore country and in the neighbourhood testifying to the people's love of art no less than to their religious sense and devotion. In painting there Is no such characteristic school but Ajanta Is just off the old boundary of Karnataka and this area may have contributed artists for the paintings found in that storehouse of Indian art. Throughout the centuries, however, Indigenous artists have painted pictures of various aspects of the godhead for the devout both for worship and for decoration and there has been some secular painting too of kings and princes and such like celebrities.

Equally notable has been the contribution of the Karnataka to the development of Indian religion and philosophy. What part if any Buddhism, while It was still active in India, played in the life of this area, It Is difficult to say. Some edicts of Asoka have been found here and as has already been stated Ajanta Is oif Its northern end, Jainism, however, has been one of the main religions in this area since the days per-

haps of Chandragupta, An
important place of Jain
pilgrimage Is located In the heart
of what was once
the Hoysala country and not a few
of the temples